



SANTA BARBARA TO BEGIN DELIVERING DESALINATED WATER

We're pleased to announce that within the next month, the Charles E. Meyer Desalination Plant (Desal Plant) will introduce a new source of water to the City. The reactivated Desal Plant will bring drought resiliency to Santa Barbara's water supply, and will produce nearly three million gallons of water per day, which is about 30 percent of the City's water demand.

Desal water will meet or exceed all state and federal drinking water regulations and is expected to have slightly different characteristics from our current mix of water supplies. The desal treatment process includes conditioning the water to make it non-corrosive. The City will also be performing additional lead and copper monitoring and corrosion testing in the distribution system to ensure the desal water has no negative impacts to the City's water pipes and supporting infrastructure.

The most notable difference with desal water is that it is generally softer. Softer water contains lower levels of naturally occurring calcium and magnesium, meaning it could eliminate or reduce the use of water softeners for some customers, and may require some businesses to change their private water conditioning system settings. The map shown on the back of this handout depicts the approximate region and percentages of desal water that will be delivered to City of Santa Barbara water customers. Once the Desal Plant is operating, some customers may also experience seasonal changes in their water quality when the blending of desal water, groundwater, and surface water supplies fluctuates.

We want to make sure that you have this information now, in case you need to make any modifications to your private water conditioning system. If you have additional water treatment within your building, we recommend you share the water quality information below with your water conditioning company, who can assist you with making adjustments, if needed.

Desal Water Quality Characteristics:

Parameter	Units	Projected Concentration
Free Chlorine Residual	mg/L	≥ 0.4 100% of the time; ≤ 1.5 100% of the time; 0.8 to 1.2 daily average
pH	-log[H ⁺]	8.0 to 8.9
Total Dissolved Solids	mg/L	< 450 mg/L
Turbidity	NTU	< 2.0 100% of the time; ≤ 1.2 95% of the time; ≤ 1.0 daily average
Calcium Hardness	mg/L as CaCO ₃	≥ 30
Alkalinity	mg/L as CaCO ₃	≥ 30
Chloride	mg/L	< 155
Sodium	mg/L	< 110
Sodium Adsorption Ratio	--	< 9
Bromide	mg/L	< 0.8
Boron	mg/L	< 1.1

The City is committed to delivering safe and reliable drinking water to meet the City's water demands now and into the future. For more information visit our website at SantaBarbaraCA.gov/Desal or call to speak to our water laboratory staff at (805) 568-1008.

